

DIAGNOSIS OF A NEW CALIFORNIAN LIZARD.

BY

LEONHARD STEJNEGER,

*Curator, Department of Reptiles and Batrachians.*

Among a number of lizards collected by my friend Mr. H. W. Henshaw, at Witch Creek, San Diego County, Southern California, during the present month (May, 1893), I find a most distinct new species belonging to the genus *Xantusia*. It was taken among rocks at an altitude of about 2,700 feet. I propose to name it in honor of its discoverer.

*Xantusia henshawi*, sp. nov.

DIAGNOSIS.—Two interfrontonasals;\* one row of superciliaries; fronto-parietals in contact; an interoccipital; pupil vertical.

HABITAT.—Witch Creek, San Diego County, California.

TYPE.—U. S. National Museum, No. 20,339; H. W. Henshaw coll.; May, 1893.

Reserving a full description, with figures, for a future paper I will here only call attention to the most salient characters by which this species may be separated from the other two species of genus. It differs from both, and in fact from all the members of the family, by the possession of a well-developed interoccipital shield. It also differs from the two *Xantusias* as well as from *Lepidophyma* by having two interfrontonasals, in this respect agreeing with the Cuban genus *Cricosaura*. Like *Xantusia vigilis* it has but one series of superciliaries (or supraoculars), while *X. riversiana* has two. It is longer and slenderer than the latter, and is more depressed than either. The color differs from both in being blackish-brown on the upper surface irregularly marbled with cream-colored lines which on the tail incline towards forming cross bands; under side whitish; scales on back small, uniform, flat tubercles; ventral scales in fourteen longitudinal and thirty-three transverse rows, preanal scales in three transverse rows, the two median posterior scales being the largest; about ten femoral pores on each side. Total length, 148<sup>mm.</sup>; length to posterior edge of occipital plates, 13<sup>mm.</sup>; length to vent, 65<sup>mm.</sup>

\*The nomenclature of the head shields of the *Xantusiidae* is yet unsettled. As the most detailed description is Cope's description of *Xantusia riversiana* (Proc. Phil. Ac., 1883, pp. 30, 31) I have here adopted his nomenclature in order to avoid confusion and to facilitate comparison with the one here given.